



GREAT LAKES GIRLS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH (STEM)

The Programs for Educational Opportunity (PEO-UM) at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor was recently awarded a three-year replication grant by the Puget Sound Center's National Girls Collaborative Project (2008-2011). The project at the University of Michigan is called the Great Lakes Girls Collaborative Project (GLGCP) and includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. This project is supported by NSF funds.

GOAL

Consistent with the goal of the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP), the goal of the Great Lakes Girls Collaborative is to increase gender equity in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through supporting collaboration between girls-serving STEM programs and organizations and promoting research based strategies in informal learning environments or evaluation, assessment.

METHOD

The Great Lakes Girls Collaborative Project will use the NGCP Program Directory, mini-grants, and periodic events to implement its program. Each of these components are described below:

Program Directory

The GLGCP encourages programs and organizations in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin that focus on motivating girls to pursue careers in STEM to add their information to the Program Directory on the NGCP home page. This Program Directory lists organizations and programs that focus on motivating girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The purpose of this Directory is to help organizations and individuals network, share resources, and collaborate on STEM-related projects for girls. It can be accessed at <http://www.psctl.org/ngcp/index.html>

The Directory contains program descriptions, resources available within each organization, program or organization needs, and contact information. Submitted entries undergo review and verification prior to publication. From links on the Program Directory page one is able to use the Directory to get an alphabetical listing of programs

within the Directory or find a particular programs within the Directory based on criteria such as name, location, needs, etc. This is the initial phase of the project.

Mini-grants

The GLGCP will award mini-grants to eligible applicants. Mini-grants are awarded to girl-serving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) focused programs to support collaboration, address gaps and overlaps in service, and share promising practices. Mini-grant projects must relate to either informal learning or evaluation and assessment. Mini-grants are a small amount of seed funding and are not intended to fully fund entire projects. The maximum mini-grant award is \$1000.

Numerous organizations provide valuable but uncoordinated activities and support services related to motivating and supporting girls' interest in STEM careers. These mini-grants are designed to build collaboration between existing programs and organizations in order to encourage girls to pursue STEM-related educational programs and careers.

Programs or organizations must be registered in the Program Directory to begin a Mini-Grant Application.

Events

The GLGCP plans to host a variety of events for girl-serving organizations, educators, and business professionals in their areas. The project will begin with a kick-off conference to announce the project and begin networking among the participants. The conference is followed by two topic forums that provide professional development activities, highlight local programs, and continue the valuable networking experience. During this time, mini-grants are being awarded and carried out by local programs. A final conference is held after the mini-grants are complete that allows the grantees an opportunity to present their projects to a large group. More professional development and networking activities are also offered at this event. The Program Directory will be a resource for notifying interested participants of these events.

Resources

The National Girls Collaborative Project newsletter seeks to support efforts in gender and diversity related issues surrounding STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Members of the NGCP listserv receive information about the NGCP as well as information from other resources that may be valuable for STEM-related programs, including funding opportunities, resources, and upcoming events. Interested individuals, programs, or organizations may register to be on the list serve at the NGCP website.

PEOPLE

The success of the GLGCP depends on the people who are part of it. The people staffing the GLGCP include a Champion's Board, the Project Leadership Team, and Project Staff.

Regional Champions Board

The purpose of the board is to champion the GLGCP in each Board member's realm of influence, to disseminate grant project information and goals, and to inform project team leaders of strategic connections, linkages, and opportunities for the project. Board members are selected to give the project a balance of desirable expertise and regional representation, including industry representatives, informal learning educators, gender equity experts, science and mathematics education representatives, and educational policy experts. The Board will meet 3 times during the three-year grant cycle.

Project Leadership Team

Team members are selected to bring STEM and program management expertise and regional representation to the Collaborative's work. The team is still being formed and is to include two gender equity advocates from each of the five states

Project Staff

Percy Bates, Ph.D., PEO-UM, Project Director

Marta Larson, PEO-UM, Project Manager and Liaison to Wisconsin and Michigan

Elizabeth Mimms, PEO-UM, Liaison to Indiana

Tasha Lebow, PEO-UM, Liaison to Illinois and Ohio

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED – FIRST STEPS

1. Tell your colleagues about this opportunity.
2. Register your existing girls-serving STEM program, project, or organization in the Program Directory at <http://www.psctl.org/ngcp/directory/index.cfm>.
3. Provide the GLGCP with contact information for other girls-serving programs, projects, or organizations that we should contact about this collaborative.
4. Nominate yourself or another advocate for gender equity in STEM fields for the regional Champions Board.
5. Collaborate with another programs, projects, or organizations to write for a mini grant using the format at < <http://www.psctl.org/ngcp/mini-grant/index.cfm>>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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